
Regional geographical names in the German Democratic Republic

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1. Introduction

In the past few years, the German Democratic Republic continued its efforts to standardize geographical names in order to comply with resolutions adopted by the conferences of the United Nations on the standardization of geographical names (Resolution 4 of the 1st Conference, Resolution 25 of the 2nd Conference and Resolution 16 of the 3rd Conference).

The result of the work undertaken in an effort to standardize geographical names on the Baltic Sea coast of the German Democratic Republic was submitted to the 8th Session of the Expert Group of the United Nations (1979) (working paper No. 18). The recently completed list of regional geographical names of the GDR is a further move towards the full-scale implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions in the GDR.

In this context, the regional geographical names are the most important names of the regions, mountains, hill-ranges and lowlands on the territory of the German Democratic Republic.

The list of the regional geographical names and the map on the scale 1 : 750,000 showing the situation and the dimensions of the objects are of great importance to the solution of several problems, such as

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- the uniform spelling of these names in all cartographical products of the GDR;
- the proper allocation of the names to the objects and their dimensions;
- the proper selection and generalization of these names on topographical maps, graticule maps, general geographical survey maps or other special-purpose maps, such as maps for tourism;
- the coordination of spelling of the names of objects situated on the territory of two or more countries.

The list and the map were prepared on the basis of an extensive analysis of cartographical, geographical and local sources.

All in all, these materials have marked a substantial progress in the daily efforts for a standardization of geographical names in the GDR. Moreover, an international exchange of such materials under the United Nations programme for a standardization of geographical names constitutes a contribution to the implementation of the Resolutions of the Conferences dealing with the names of objects situated on the territory of two or more countries (Resolution 8 of the 1st Conference, Resolution 24 of the 2nd Conference, Resolution 20 of the 3rd Conference).

2. List of regional geographical names of the GDR

Name	Definition/situation
Alter Stollberg	Hill-range on the southern edge of the Lower Harz Mtns., situated between the valley of the Thyra near Uftringen and Nordhausen

Name	Definition/situation
Altmark	Region between Magdeburg and Wittenberge, bounded by the Elbe and the Ohre and the state border between the GDR and the FRG
Annaburger Heide	Hilly woodland south of Annaburg, between the Elbe and the Schwarze Elster
Barnim	Region northeast of Berlin, bounded by the Havel, the Eberswalde Pleistocene watercourse with the Oder Spree Canal, the valley of the Stobber (Stobberow) with Märkische Schweiz and the Berlin Pleistocene watercourse with the Spree
Belziger Landschaftswiesen	Lowlands on the Plane north of Belzig, on the northeastern edge of Hoher Fläming
Bleicheroder Berge	Elevations west of Bleicherode, on the eastern edge of Eichsfeld
Börde	Loess-covered, flat-wave region west of Magdeburg, bounded by the Weser Elbe Canal, the Elbe, the Saale and Harzvorland
Burgsteingebiet	Region in Vogtland southwest of Plauen, between the Weiße Elster and the GDR's state border with the FRG, north of the Feilebach
Colbitz-Letzlinger-Heide	Hilly woodland in Altmark, between Gardelegen, Tangerhütte and Haldensleben
Dahlener Heide	Hilly woodland south of Torgau, between Dahlen and Belgern

Name	Definition/situation
Darß	Wooded peninsula on the Baltic Sea coast northwest of Barth, between Fischland and Zingst Peninsula
Der Werder	Region between Neubrandenburg, Alentrepow and Friedland, bounded by the Tollense, the Landgraben and the Datze
Dresdener Heide	Wooded region northeast of Dresden, between Dresden and Radeberg
Drömling	Lowland on the southwestern edge of Altmark, between the Aller and the Ohre, northwest of Oebisfelde
Dübener Heide	Hilly woodland between the Mulde and the Elbe, between Kemberg and Eilenburg
Dün	Hill-range on the northwestern edge of Thüringer Becken, east of Heiligenstadt
Eichsfeld	Region west of Thüringer Becken, between the Eller and the Helme in the north and the Werra in the southwest. Eichsfeld is composed of Oberes Eichsfeld south of Dün and the Leine and Unteres Eichsfeld north of this line
Elbsandsteingebirge (Sächsische Schweiz)	Between Erzgebirge and Lausitzer Bergland, on either side of the Elbe, range of mountains whose main features are their block sandstones and table mountains, also called Sächsische Schweiz (Saxon Switzerland)
Elstergebirge	Range of mountains in the southeastern part of Vogtland, between Erzgebirge and Fichtelgebirge
Ettersberg	Hill-range in the eastern part of Thüringer Becken, north of Weimar

Name	Definition/situation
Erzgebirge	Range of mountains in the south of the GDR, between Vogtland (Klingenthal, Kirchberg) in the west and Elbsandsteingebirge (Pirna) in the east. The valley of the Flöha is the boundary between Westerbirge (more elevated) and Osterzgebirge
Fahnersche Höhe	Hill-range in Thüringer Becken north of Gotha
Fiener Bruch	Lowland between Genthin and Ziesar on the northern edge of Hoher Fläming
Finne	Hill-range on the northeastern edge of Thüringer Becken, between Rastenberg and Eckartsberga
Fischland	Peninsula on the Baltic Sea coast northwest of Ribnitz-Damgarten on Saaler Bodden, between Darß and the mainland
Fläming	Ridge of land north of the middle part of the Elbe near Wittenberg, between Magdeburg and Baruth. The valley of the Plane northeast of Niemegk and the cut of the Zahna east of Wittenberg separate Hoher Fläming in the west from Niederer Fläming in the east
Flechtinger Höhenzug	Hill-range west of Haldensleben, between Drömling and Börde
Frankenwald	Range of mountains south of Thüringer Schiefergebirge
Friedländer Große Wiese	Lowland east of Friedland
Geyerscher Wald	Wooded region in Erzgebirge northwest of Annaberg-Buchholz, between Geyer and Zwönitz

Name	Definition/situation
Gnitz	Peninsula of Usedom Island south of Zinnowitz, between Achterwasser and Krumminer Wiek
Goburg (also Gobert)	Hill-range in Oberes Eichsfeld southwest of Heiligenstadt, on the state border between the GDR and the FRG
Goldene Aue	Part of the valley of the Helme between Nordhausen and Sangerhausen, Artern, bounded by Unterharz in the north and Kyffhäusergebirge in the south
Grabfeld	Region south of the Werra on the state border between the GDR and the FRG, situated in the GDR only in part
Granitz	Wooded region in the southeastern part of Rügen, between Binz and Sellin
Griese Gegend	Region in the southwest of Schwerin County, adjacent to Lewitz in the latter's southwestern part, bounded by the riverbeds of the Elde, Alte Elde, Löcknitz, Röcknitz and Sude
Großenhainer Pflege	Loess-covered, hilly region east of the Elbe near Großenhain, between the towns of Gröditz and Ortrand in the north and Meißen and Radeburg in the south
Großer Fallstein	Elevation in northern Harzvorland, north of Osterwieck
Großes Bruch	Lowland in northern Harzvorland, west of Oschersleben
Großes Ried	Lowland in Thüringer Becken, on the River Gera south of Gebesee
Hägerort	Region west of Rostock, between the Unterwarnow and Conventer Niederung, north of the Rostock - Bad Doberan railway line

Name	Définition/situation
Hainich	Hill-range on the western edge of Thüringer Becken, southeast of Mühlhausen
Hainleite	Hill-range on the northern edge of Thüringer Becken, south of the Wipper near Sondershausen
Hakel	Hill-range on the eastern edge of northern Harzvorland east of Halberstadt
Harz	Range of mountains in the western part of the GDR, between the towns of Wernigerode, Blankenburg, Thale and Ballenstedt in the north and Nordhausen and Sangerhausen in the south. The Harz Mtns. are composed of Oberharz west of Wernigerode with the Brocken massif and Unterharz with the Ramberg massif and Mansfelder Bergland
Harzvorland	Hilly region between Harz, Börde and Leipziger Tieflandsbucht. Harzvorland consists of northern Harzvorland of Aschersleben between Harz and Börde including Großer Bruch, Großer Fallstein, Huy and Hakel and eastern Harzvorland between Mansfelder Bergland and Leipziger Tieflandsbucht
Havelland	Region in the bend of the Havel between Rathenow and Berlin, in the north bounded by the lowland through which the Rhin and the Dosse flow, including the Rhinluch, Ländchen Rhinow, Ländchen Friesack, Ländchen Bellin and Ländchen Glien and Havelländisches Luch
Havelländisches Luch	Lowland in Havelland between Rathenow, Friesack and Nauen
Havelsche Mark	Lowland north of Burg, between the Elbe and the Elbe Havel Canal

Name	Definition/situation
Heinzewald	Wooded region in Erzgebirge north of Marienberg
Hintere Heide	Mountainous woodland south fo the Saale near Orlamünde
Hohe Rhön	Central part of Rhön (a mountainous region) only partly situated on GDR territory in the southwest of Suhl County, south of Kaltennordheim
Hohe Schrecke	Hill-range on the Unstrut east of Heldrungen
Hohwald	Wooded region around Valtenberg in the western part of Lausitzer Bergland, northeast of Neustadt
Holzland	Wooded region west of the Saale between Eisenberg and Pößneck
Hörselberge	Hill-range east of Eisenach
Huy	Hill-range of northern Harzvorland north-west of Halberstadt
Jasmund	Peninsula in the northeastern part of Rügen Island including the steep chalk coast
Kalbescher Werder	Region in Altmark north of Kalbe (Milde), bounded by the Augraben, the Biese, the Milde and the lower Milde
Klosterpflege	Region in Oberlausitz around the cloister of St. Marienstern southeast of Kamenz
Klützer Winkel	Region in the northeastern part of the GDR around the town of Klütz, between the village of Groß Schwansee and Wohlenberger Wiek

Name	Definition/situation
Kohrener Land	Region on the southeastern edge of Leipziger Tieflandsbucht around the town of Kohren-Sahlis, in the area between the lowlands and the middle Saxon hill country
Königshainer Gebirge	Mountainous region west of Görlitz
Köhlung	Hill-range west of Bad Doberan
Kyffhäusergebirge	Range of mountains south of Goldene Aue in the south of Unterharz
Ländchen Bellin	Region in Havelland south of Fehrbellin, between Rhinluch and Havelländisches Luch
Ländchen Glien	Region in the northeast of Havelland, south of Kremmen
Ländchen Rhinow	Region in the northwest of Havelland, south of Rhinow
Land Lebus	Region on the Oder west of Frankfurt, adjacent to Oderbruch in the northeast, to Barnim and Märkische Schweiz in the northwest
Land Schollene	Region between the Elbe and Havel lowlands near Schollene, west of Rathenow
Laszinswiesen	Meadow lowlands of the Malxe near Peitz north of Cottbus, adjacent to Oberer Spreewald in the east
Lausitzer Bergland	Mountainous region of Oberlausitz south of Bautzen
Lausitzer Grenzwall	Southeast of Fläming, long hilly end moraine range of Lausitzer Tiefland on the line Dahme-Senftenberg-Spremberg-Weißwasser-Muskau
Lausitzer Heide	Hilly woodland southwest of Königsbrück

Name	Definition/situation
Leipziger Tieflands- bucht	Region lacking relief, on either side of the Weiße Elster and the Saale, between Halle and Delitzsch in the north and Weis- Benfels and Frohburg in the south
Lewitz	Lowland on the lower Elde and Störkanal, north of Neustadt-Glewe
Lieper Winkel	Peninsula of Usedom Island between the southern Achterwasser and the Peenestrom
Lommatzcher Pflege	Loess-covered hilly region near Lommatzsch and Döbeln, between the Elbe near Meißen and the Freiburger Mulde near Döbeln
Mansfelder Bergland	Mountainous region around Mansfeld in the eastern part of Unterharz, between Gernrode and Hettstedt
Märkische Schweiz	Hilly wood and lake region near Buckow, between Barnim and Land Lebus
Mecklenburgische Schweiz	Hilly region south of Teterow and the Peene near Neukalen on the western bank of Malchiner See
Mecklenburgische Seenplatte	Region in the north of the GDR with many lakes, between the end moraines of the Frankfurt and Pomeranian stages, from Schwerin in the west to the region of Templin north of Schorfheide
Mönchgut	Region and peninsula in the southeast of Rügen Island, south of the Mönchsgraben near Sellin
Mosigkauer Heide	Wooded region south of Dessau
Muskauer Faltenbogen	Hogback region of elongated fold crests between Bad Muskau and Döbern, north of Weißwasser, eastern part of Lausitzer Grenzwall

Name	Definition/situation
Muskauer Forst	Wooded region south of Bad Muskau and Weißwasser, between the Spree and the Lausitzer Neiße
Niederlausitz	Region of Norddeutsches Tiefland, bounded by the Dahme, the Spree and the Oder Spree Canal in the north and the Schwarze Elster and Lausitzer Grenzwall near Spremberg and Weißwasser in the south
Oberland	Wooded range of mountains between Thüringer Schiefergebirge and Vogtland, south of the Orla
Oberlausitz	Mountainous region, south of Niederlausitz, between the Schwarze Elster and Lausitzer Grenzwall in the north, the GDR state border and the Große Röder in the south. In the east it is bounded by the Lausitzer Neiße, in the west by the Dresden - Lübbenau autobahn
Oderbruch	Lowland on the west bank of the middle part of the Oder, between Lebus and Oderberg; its part between Bad Freienwalde and Oderberg is called Niederoderbruch
Ohmgebirge	Mountainous region in Unteres Eichsfeld north of Worbis
Orlasenke	Depressed area on the northern edge of Thüringer Schiefergebirge (passed by the Orla) and Oberland east of Saalfeld up to Triptis
Ostérland	Region east of Gera extending up to Zwickauer Mulde, between Leipziger Tieflandsbucht and Vogtland, formerly also called Pleißnerland

Name	Definition/situation
Plothener Teiche	Region of ponds in Oberland north of Schleiz
Prignitz	Region between the Elde, the Dosse, the Havel and the Elbe
Ramberg	Mountainous massif on the northern edge of Unterharz southwest of Gernrode
Randowbruch	Lowland on both sides of the Randow south of Eggesin up to Welßebruch
Rhinluch	Lowland on the northern edge of Havelland north of Fehrbellin
Ried	Lowland on the Helme and the Unstrut near Artern
Rostocker Heide	Wooded region on the Baltic Sea northeast of Rostock, between Breitling and Fischland
Sächsische Schweiz	Name for Elbsandsteingebirge on GDR territory (see Elbsandsteingebirge)
Schmücke	Hill-range on the northeastern edge of Thüringer Becken, southeast of Heldrungen
Schönes Feld	Region on the northeastern edge of Thüringer Wald, south of Remda in the northwest of Rudolstadt
Schorfheide	Wooded region between Templin and Joachimsthal, with parts of it in the southern part of Uckermark
Schraden	Lowland on the Schwarze Elster and the Pulenitz east of Elsterwerda
Spreewald	Lowland on either side of the middle part of the Spree north and east of Lübbenau. The Spreewald consists of two parts:

Name	Definition/situation
Stubnitz	Oberer Spreewald, the larger area, is situated east of Lübbenau from the villages of Fehrow and Striesow up to Lübben; Unterer Spreewald, the smaller, heavily forested area, is to the north of Lübben
Teltow	Region south of the Havel and the Spree to the south of Berlin
Teufelsmauer	Hill-range on the northern edge of Unterharz southeast of Blankenburg
Tharandter Wald	Wooded region on the northern edge of Erzgebirge southwest of Tharandt near Dresden
Thüringer Becken	Region between Thüringer Wald and the Harz Mtns., bounded in the north by hill-ranges composed of shell limestone
Thüringer Schiefergebirge	Range of mountains southeast of Thüringer Wald
Thüringer Wald	Wooded range of mountains in the southwest of the GDR, from the Werra northwest of Eisenach to the line Gehren-Schönbrunn-Lichtenau
Uckermark	Region west of the Oder in the upper and middle parts of the Uecker
Ueckerländer Heide	Wooded region south of Kleines Haff, on either side of the lower Uecker
Vogtland	Wooded mountainous region in the south of the GDR, between Erzgebirge and Oberland
Vordere Heide	Mountainous wooded region east of Bad Blankenburg, between the Saale and Orlasenke

Name	Definition/situation
Welsebruch	Lowland of the Welse northwest of Schwedt
Westerwald	Hill-range in Oberes Eichsfeld southwest of Dingelstedt
Windleite	Hill-range west of Kyffhäusergebirge, between Goldene Aue and Hainleite
Wische	Lowland with ramose ditches, between the Elbe and the Aland with the Biese, east of Seehausen, Osterburg
Wittow	Peninsula in the north of Rügen Island
Wolgaster Ort	Peninsula in the northwest of Usedom Island, southeast of Wolgast
Wöllmiese	Hill-range southeast of Jena
Zauche	Region between Fläming and the Havel, southwest of Potsdam
Ziesebruch	Lowland on both sides of the Ziese between Dänische Wiek east of Greifswald and the Peenestrom southwest of Wolgast
Zingst	Peninsula on the Baltic Sea coast east of Darß
Zittauer Gebirge	Sandstone mountains in the southeast of Oberlausitz south of Zittau